

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A keypad of a portable wireless terminal, comprising:
a sheet having a plurality of holes; and
a plurality of keys independently fastened within respective ones of the holes,
wherein the ~~sheet supports the keys~~ are detached from one another and are supported by the
sheet within a housing of the portable wireless terminal.
2. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the keys include stopping
portions which fasten the keys within respective ones of the holes.
3. (Original) The keypad of claim 2, wherein the stopping portions are integrally
formed with the keys.
4. (Original) The keypad of claim 2, wherein the stopping portions and the keys are
made from a same material.
5. (Original) The keypad of claim 2, wherein the stopping portions are located at
lower surfaces of the keys.

6. (Currently Amended) The keypad of claim 1, wherein each key includes a recess for receiving a portion of the sheet near the hole, and wherein portions of the key located above and below the recess overlap and contact the portion of the sheet near the hole.

7. (Original) The keypad of claim 6, wherein the portion of each key located below the recess defines a stopping portion for holding the key within the hole.

8. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, further comprising:
an adhesive layer adjacent a lower surface of the sheet and contacting lower surfaces of the keys, said adhesive layer providing additional force for holding the keys within the holes of the sheet.

9. (Original) The keypad of claim 8, wherein the adhesive layer includes a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the keys.

10. (Original) The keypad of claim 8, wherein the adhesive layer includes a silicon material.

11. (Original) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the keys are formed of a plastic material.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for fabricating a keypad of a portable wireless terminal, comprising:

forming a plurality of holes in a sheet; and

fastening a plurality of independent ~~the~~ keys within respective ones of the holes, ~~said sheet supporting the keys~~ being detached from one another and supported by the sheet within a housing of the portable wireless terminal.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the fastening step includes:

inserting the keys into the holes by an insert injection molding method.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the inserting step includes coupling a recess formed along a perimeter of each key to a respective one of the holes in the sheet.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein portions of each key above and below the recess overlap and contact a portion of sheet near a respective one of the holes.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

forming an adhesive layer to a lower surface of the sheet and to lower surfaces of the keys.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the adhesive layer includes a silicon material.
18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the keys are formed of a plastic material.
19. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
forming the keys using a pin-point gate method.
20. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
spraying the keys to enhance tactility of the keys.
21. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the sheet is substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless device.
22. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 1, wherein the keys protrude above a front case of the portable wireless device.

23. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 1, further comprising:
another sheet including a plurality of dome switches aligned with respective ones
of the keys.

24. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 23, wherein each dome switch
includes a curved metal surface which deflects to touch an electrical contact point coupled to a
circuit board when pressure is applied to a respective one of the keys.

25. (Previously Presented) The keypad of 23, further comprising:
an adhesive layer coupled between the keys and dome switches,
wherein the adhesive layer includes a plurality of protrusions aligned with
respective ones of the dome switches, each of the protrusions applying a force to close a
respective one of the dome switches when one of the keys is pressed.

26. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 25, wherein the adhesive layer applies
a force to hold the keys in the holes.

27. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 25, wherein the adhesive layer is
substantially parallel to the sheet having the holes.

28. (Previously Presented) The keypad of claim 27, wherein the adhesive layer is also substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless terminal.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
forming the sheet so as to be substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless device.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the keys are fastened to protrude above a front case of the portable wireless device.

31 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
attaching another sheet including a plurality of dome switches in alignment with respective ones of the keys.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein each dome switch includes a curved metal surface which deflects to touch an electrical contact point coupled to a circuit board when pressure is applied to a respective one of the keys.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of 31, further comprising:
forming an adhesive layer between the keys and dome switches,

wherein the adhesive layer includes a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the dome switches, each of the protrusions applying a force to close a respective one of the dome switches when one of the keys is pressed.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the adhesive layer applies a force to hold the keys in the holes.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the adhesive layer is substantially parallel to the sheet having the holes.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the adhesive layer is also substantially parallel to a front case of the portable wireless terminal.

37. (New) The keypad of claim 6, wherein the recess is a circumferential recess.

38. (New) The keypad of claim 6, wherein the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key that are above and below the recess.

39. (New) The keypad of claim 7, wherein the stopping portion is located along a lowest surface of the key.

40. (New) The keypad of claim 8, wherein the key and adhesive layer are made from different materials.

41. (New) The keypad of claim 9, wherein the adhesive layer is a substantially planar integral layer extending below the plurality of keys.

42. (New) The keypad of claim 1, further comprising:
an adhesive layer adjacent a lower surface of the sheet and contacting lower surfaces of the keys, said adhesive layer providing additional force for holding the keys within the holes of the sheet and including a plurality of protrusions aligned with respective ones of the keys, and

wherein each key includes a recess for receiving a portion of the sheet near the hole, portions of the key above and below the recess overlapping and contacting the portion of the sheet near the hole, and wherein the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key above and below the recess, the portion of the key below the recess defining a stopping portion having a lower surface coincident with a lower surface of the key.

43. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the recess is a circumferential recess.
44. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the recess extends from an interior of the key to an outermost circumferential surface between the portions of the key that are above and below the recess.
45. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the portion of each key below the recess defines a stopping portion for holding the key within the hole.
46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the stopping portion is located along a lowest surface of the key.
47. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the key and adhesive layer are made from different materials.
48. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the adhesive layer is a substantially planar integral layer extending below the plurality of keys.